

CSP Annual Report 2018/19

General

This year has seen bedding in of the way in which Sussex Police work and the joint Arun and Chichester Prevention team is well established. There is an emphasis on prevention and detection of crime and better engagement with victims. Crime levels remain low compared to other areas but is currently showing a month on month slight decrease at 7.2%, which is a 6.5% reduction on the same time last year. . Acquisitive crime has continued to increase especially thefts from vehicles in beauty spot car parks largely due to one organised crime group from Hampshire. Partnership work with Sussex Police remains strong particularly in our response to vehicle crime. Pedal cycle thefts, rough sleeping and tackling exploitation. The joint CSP is working well towards tackling the 4 key priorities which are CSE, Street Community, Mental Health and serious Organised Crime. Much of this work is now be delivered by the Serious Organised Crime (SOC) group which covers both areas.

JAG (Joint Action Group)

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Crime-

ASB continues to involve mainly neighbour disputes with general nuisance behaviour especially amongst young people reducing; we still manage youth ASB at the earliest opportunity which generally stops it escalating. Neighbour disputes are much more difficult to resolve as they usually stem from a civil matter and can end up with criminal investigations. We continue to have no community trigger activations since their implementation in 2014 suggesting complainants are satisfied with the handling of their cases. Sussex Police mainstreamed the ASB and Hate Crime Co-ordinator role in September 2017 this role has changed and now covers both Chichester and Arun meaning a risk to our response to ASB in Chichester. In April 2018 we recruited a part time ASB case worker who is working with the Police ASB Co-ordinator, Housing providers and community wardens ensuring that any ASB issues are dealt with in a timely manner.

Burglary is no longer separated and is recorded as Burglary residential and includes both dwelling and outbuildings. We set a target of no more than 625 crimes on the rolling year and in Q3 we are running at 625, 5 under our target. Burglary is spread across the district and there are no particular patterns. The district is vulnerable by nature of its borders with other districts and Counties and the road network can facilitate offenders travelling in and out of the district. We can authorise Designated Patrol Areas (DPA's) and these can be used to good effect when detecting crimes. We continue to work cross border with Surrey and Hampshire .Theft of vehicles has remained fairly static, however theft from a vehicle has seen unprecedented levels to 203 in Q3 and can be almost entirely accounted for by an organised crime group from Hampshire, one of whom has recently been sentenced to 12 months in prison.

Theft of pedal cycles peaked in Q2 but has reduced in Q3... The JAG continues to tackle the issue and have held a number of bike security and marking event across the City including the railway station, college and the Cross. Over 50 cycles have been security marked and many more cyclists reminded of the need to lock their cycle with a good quality lock.

Public Place Violent Crime figures continue to rise all-be-it slower over the last year, there are no set patterns or locations to these crimes and will also include reports of Domestic abuse. It is not clear how the rise is being accounted for and JAG continues to monitor and liaise with night-time economy partners. It may be as a result of County lines but this has not been substantiated.

Hate crime figures remain low compared with other areas running at around 8 crimes per month with Race continuing be the main category .We continue to monitor the figures monthly at JAG. We have supported an “Our City” project which aims to reduce the risk of those with a learning disability being targeted in the City centre by offering a safe place to go. Retailer’s sign up to the scheme and show a sticker in the window which a person with a learning disability will recognise and know they can enter and get help. This has successfully been trialled in Horsham and is being implemented across the County.

Cyber -Crime

Cyber- crime is one of the fastest growing crime types of our time and with more people using technology and utilising online systems there are ever more opportunities for offenders to target the general public and businesses. We have been working with WSCC to promote a number of campaigns including online gaming and dating scams (see link below). We continue to support schools with internet safety advice, particularly through 5 ways to wellbeing.

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/campaigns/staying-safe-online/>

Scams have been a focus and we have supported Sussex Police by printing extra leaflets that can be given out at awareness raising events.

We will be considering our response to hacking and more organised cyber -crime in the coming year.

Serious Organised Crime (SOC)

The SOC group has met quarterly and has initially focussed on membership, roles and responsibilities and intelligence sharing. It is now at the stage of developing a high level action plan around County Lines and other types of exploitation. The group has good representation from CDC departments including Housing, Licencing and Revenues and Benefits.

Exploitation

We continue to be represented at the County child exploitation group and ensure any intelligence on young people from Chichester is fed into the MASH. We had a very successful intervention at Chichester Railways station with 2 young girls running away to London thanks to the awareness training and partnership working we deliver with Southern Rail staff.

We have delivered awareness training to CDC volunteers and we repeated our sexual harassment training at Chichester University with over 50 students attending. Stone-pillow staff and volunteers and Youth club workers from Swanfield youth club all received refresher training. This training included CSE and other types of exploitation.

We have updated our level 1 safeguarding training for all staff and the Safeguarding Policy has been refreshed.

The serious organised crime (SOC) group has ownership of all including modern slavery and is developing an action plan around this. We continue to work with immigration and enforcement on any suspected cases of modern slavery.

KSI- (Killed and Seriously Injured)

The local working group has integrated into an Arun and Chichester Road Safety Action Group (RSAG). The group is working well, we agreed funding for 25 older driver assessments to be undertaken by WSCC all 25 free places have been taken up and we plan to promote the service further in the coming year as we continue to a higher numbers of older drivers involved in collisions than other districts 24 so far this year. Through Ideas into action we supported Selsey Academy students to hold a road safety event in Selsey which was enjoyed by over 100 residents.

Community Tensions / PREVENT

Community Tensions continue to be monitored in a multi-agency way at the JAG. The county wide Tactical Tasking and co-ordination Group identifies whole county tensions and is a mechanism for reporting and monitoring these. Gypsy Traveller incursions have reduced and those that did occur were swiftly advised to go to the transit site or move on. The transit site has generated few issues and the complaints have been low level. Regular meetings with the chair of the Parish Council have ensured good communication links and a quick response to any issues arising.

A rise in visible rough sleeping in the City centre has increased tensions within the City with retailers expecting CDC to manage the issue despite many of the encampments being on private land. We have worked with Police, Housing and Stone-pillow to tackle these issues. Those rough sleepers who wanted to engage were signposted to support agencies and those who did not were dealt with by way of notices and they more often than not chose to move on. We arranged quick removal of abandoned belongings by the depot and this helped relieve the tensions.

We continue to support the rough sleeper panel and help identify new rough sleepers in the City and ensure swift engagement with them.

The PREVENT duty became law on July 1st 2015 and as a Local Authority we must pay “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism” we are continuing to raise awareness through safeguarding training as discussed previously.

Domestic Abuse

We have a priority in the business plan to reduce the effect of domestic abuse particularly in relation to young people. The JAG funded Options to deliver another two “Healthy Relationships “ projects one at Midhurst Rother and the other at Bourne Community College aimed at year 9 students .The project continues to emphasise what a healthy relationship looks like and promotes resilience amongst participants to challenge their own relationships and those of their peers.

Neighbourhoods

This year has seen a continued concentration of effort in Chichester East and getting the foundations right to sustain the changes and work being undertaken. The plans for a community hub in Charles Avenue are moving forward and it is hoped the Community building will be completed by April 2019. The Charles Avenue Residents Association (CARE) is still running well and they have held a variety of events over the last year. Five ways to wellbeing has been delivered into number primary schools in Think Family Neighbourhood areas. This project continues to support communities and promotes the voice of the child within those communities and increases the resilience of those children taking part. We have also focussed on the Holmbush area of Midhurst which is in need of some tidying up and community support. Two days of action cleaned up the Holmbush recreation field and there is on-going support from Hyde and the community to keep it that way. The paly equipment is scheduled for a repaint and we have more days of action planned in the area in the next few months. There will be an emphasis going forward of ensuring the neighbourhoods work is focussed on supporting Parish Councils to support their own communities by providing a digital platform for them to share issues and solutions. We are also supporting the social prescribing project as it moves forward.

Public Confidence and Reassurance

The CSP continues to make better use of social media in promoting the work it is doing and ensuring the public are made aware of key campaigns and activity. We share communications with other partners so they can put them on their social media sites and we do the same for their campaigns. Regular input on the Members bulletin board ensures Members are kept up to date. Cabinet have recently agreed to the funding of upgrading a number of City Centre CCTV cameras to improve public safety and security.

Pam Bushby

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